Net-Zero Transition Plan

Decisions we make today lay the foundations of tomorrow.

St John Fisher Catholic College is part of the growing global community that is taking positive action to tackle the negative effects of climate change. Environmental sustainability has been identified as a core objective for the school community and the wider CtKCC community and we are working hard to embed environmental sustainability into our thinking and actions.

St John Fisher Catholic College is committed to minimising the effects of our operation on the environment and playing our part in achieving the Public Sector's Net Zero Targets.

Schools are often seen as a trailblazer for change in a local community, with lessons learnt in the classroom filtering out into the home. As a Catholic school, we have a central role to play in educating our learners, staff, parents/carers and other stakeholders about the importance of sustainability. The following points address the ways in which we, as a Catholic school community, will address our contribution towards environmental sustainability and climate change.

Present – *Our Buildings*

With an ageing School Estate, the requirement for a reduction in carbon omissions presents a number of problems, with limited funds available for full component replacements. However, as a school, we're keen to implement change where possible and have identified the following items for action.

- Make efficient use of existing space and increasing the use of shared facilities.
- Standardise common plant systems to provide continuity of assets (e.g. increasing life cycle; reducing maintenance liability).
- Ensure the progressive refurbishment and enhancement of existing 'end of life' buildings (that are not being replaced) in order to achieve a higher level of energy performance (e.g. increase insulation, install energy efficient lighting).
- Reduce and reuse 'end of life' construction materials on site (e.g. using demolition materials as hard core).
- Compel contractors to report accurately on their waste management processes during the construction process (e.g. volumes and material types to landfill).
- Establish clear expectations relating to environmental sustainability with Project Design Teams at the offset.
- Incorporate sustainability objectives into tendering and procurement processes; ensure that all new build projects achieve a BREEAM rating of 'Very Good' or 'Excellent'.
- Adopt appropriate energy saving and sustainable power generation technologies within building services design so far as practicably possible.

Energy

The best way to manage waste is to not produce it! Therefore, we have looked at the various ways in which the school can make a difference.

- Turning lights off/power to electrical items when not in use. PC turned off, not sleep mode.
- Using daylight in classroom were possible to save on electricity.
- Shutting doors & windows in colder weather.
- Curtains and blinds are used to keep rooms at a comfortable temperature.
- Ensuring taps are only run whilst in use and hot water is only in use when needed.
- Setting the heating when necessary to 18°C for normal teaching days.
- Kitchen appliances are only used when required and our freezers are de frosted regularly.
- Labels are provided to switches ensuring only needed appliances/lights are used and correct usage and turning off instructions.
- Review energy usage annually - ensure reduction efforts are effective and tariffs competitive.

- Using timer plugs where appropriate.

Transport

- Encouraging learners and staff to take alternative methods to get to school as a priority item, reducing local road congestion and pollution, with use of bicycle sheds.
- Reward schemes for pupils and / or staff who reduce carbon emissions by walking, cycling or taking public transport to school, such as cycle2work scheme.
- Car sharing where possible on routes to work or whilst attending courses.
- Taking part in the Bikeability scheme to encourage safe cycling with our pupils and staff.

Gardening

- Recycling bins are located in and around the school and its grounds, encouraging pupils to think about what they are consuming and where their rubbish will go. There is an awareness that objects categorised as recycling will not go on to landfill.

Restore

- Any areas of the school that are damaged, where possible, are restored to original condition.
- Our boilers are serviced annually, this not only extends the life of the boiler, but this can also save money on the energy bill getting maximum efficiency.
- Maintenance is carried out on dripping taps to cut water costs and save energy.
- Walk around by members of staff are carried out monthly to check areas such as windows panes, skylights, roofs and skirting for maintenance required where energy can be lost easily.
- Our staff report faulty/broken equipment, this is replaced where possible so long-lasting damage doesn't occur.

Relocate

- Printers and photocopiers are stored in a well-ventilated areas, at the North of the school with good airflow to prevent overheating.
- Classrooms are laid out in a way that radiators aren't obstructed, thermostats are effective and students/teachers are affected by the temperatures.

Implementation

With the goal of the Net-Zero for Schools approaching the year 2030, we will be implementing the following to ensure the target is achieved.

- Trials of Energy Management Systems in our school to provide real-time information on energy usage. Reporting this information to the Government to ensure the targets are being met.
- Adopt appropriate energy-saving and sustainable power generation technologies within building services design so far as practicably possible.
- Plant-based meals to be served once weekly reducing Co2 emissions by 8% per meal.
- Joining the Let's go Zero Campaign to get ideas and inspiration from other schools within the campaign.
- Providing training to teachers by holding Climate Change and Sustainability CPD (Continuous Personal Development).
- Pilot Smart Air and Environmental Quality Monitors, reporting temperature, humidity, carbon dioxide and volatile organic compounds.

A Whole School Approach

The best ideas, solutions and support are likely to come from the school community. So, involving them at an early stage and maintaining that involvement is key to success. Strategies to be implemented may include:

- Climate Change Councils: Young people are increasingly concerned about sustainability and climate change and look for opportunities to learn more.
- Local Businesses: Collaboration partnerships with local businesses to support and establish a more sustainable infrastructure/knowledge base.
- Incorporating sustainability and the environment into lessons such as calculating energy usage in maths and designing posters in English to communicate key messages.